What is claimed is:

1. An endarterectomy surgical instrument comprising:
   (a) a shaft having proximal and distal ends;
   (b) a head coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the head having an endoscope port and at least one fluid port; and
   (c) a handle coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, the handle comprising:
      i. a gas supply port in fluid communication with the at least one gas port on the head;
      ii. a flow valve for metering flow of gas between the gas supply port and the at least one fluid port on the head; and
      iii. a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope.
2. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a saline solution inlet coupled to the handle for coupling a flow of saline solution to the at least one fluid port on the head.
3. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein a fluid connection of the handle to the head of the shaft is provided through a first lumen.
4. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising an endoscope for providing optical coupling through a second lumen between the distal and proximal ends of the shaft.
5. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein a fluid connection of the handle to the head of the shaft is provided through a first lumen, further comprising an endoscope for providing optical coupling through a second lumen between the distal and proximal ends of the shaft.
6. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein the first lumen is identical to the second lumen.
7. The endartectomy surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a grasping device, the device having a retracted configuration and a

deployed configuration wherein the grasping device extends away from the head in the deployed configuration.

8. The endartectomy surgical instrument of claim 7, further comprising a deployment control disposed on the handle of the instrument and in mechanical communication with the grasping device.

9. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 7 and 8, wherein the grasping device is a barb.

10. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 7 and 8, wherein the grasping device is a hook.

11. The endarterectomy surgical instrument as in claim 8, wherein the deployment control is a slide.

12. The endarterectomy surgical instrument of claim 8, wherein mechanical communication between the deployment control and the grasping device includes a control wire having a first wire end and a second wire end, the first wire end connected to the grasping device and the second wire end connected to the deployment control.

13. An endarterectomy surgical instrument comprising:

(a) a shaft having proximal and distal ends;

(b) a head coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the head having an endoscope port and at least one fluid port;

(c) a handle coupled to the proximal end of the shaft, the handle comprising:

i. a fluid supply port in fluid communication with the at least one fluid port on the head; and

ii. a locking mechanism for retaining an endoscope; and

(d) a grasping device, the device having a retracted configuration and a deployed configuration wherein the grasping device extends away from the head in the deployed configuration.

14. A method for performing endarterectomy for removing an obstruction from a blood vessel, the method comprising:

(a) inserting the endarerectomy surgical instrument of claim 1 through a single incision in the blood vessel;

(b) providing fluid through the at least one fluid port of the head for separating intima and media layers of the artery surrounding the blockage;

(c) grasping the blockage with a grasping device at the distal end of the endarterectomy instrument; and

(d) removing the blockage through the incision.